

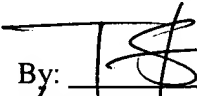
REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering the present application and for allowing claims 1-16. By way of this reply, rejected claims 17-20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, only allowed claims 1-16 remain. Accordingly, the present application is now in condition of allowance.

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 03226.535001).

Dated: May 5, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By:  #45,079
Robert P. Lord THOMAS SHERER
Registration No.: 46,479
OSHA · LIANG LLP
1221 McKinney St., Suite 2800
Houston, Texas 77010
(713) 228-8600
(713) 228-8778 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant